

No fee is believed due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

LaVonda R. De Witt
La Vonda R. De Witt
Registration No. 40,396

Needle & Rosenberg, P.C.
Suite 1200, The Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1811
(404) 688-0770

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.

LaVonda R. De Witt
La Vonda R. De Witt

March 15, 2001
Date

a' with the addition of manure to the litter, the addition of bedding or amendments between growouts, and efforts to clean the litter between growouts.

A manure slurry refers to a mixture of manure and a liquid, e.g., urine and/or water. Thus, a manure slurry is formed when animal manure and urine are contacted, or

5 when manure is mixed with water from an external source.

Aluminum chloride includes hydrated or anhydrous aluminum chloride when present as a solid. Aluminum chloride can be used in this invention in solid or liquid form, and thus discussions of aluminum chloride include both solid aluminum chloride and aluminum chloride solutions (in which aluminum chloride is present as a solution residue). Preferred aluminum chloride for practicing this invention is $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein n is from 0 to 10, and even more preferred aluminum chloride is $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein n is from 4 to 8. Aluminum chloride hexahydrate is most preferred.

Aluminum nitrate includes hydrated or anhydrous aluminum nitrate when present as a solid. Aluminum nitrate can be used in this invention in solid or liquid form, and

15 thus discussions of aluminum nitrate include both solid aluminum nitrate and aluminum nitrate solutions (in which aluminum nitrate is present as a solution residue). Preferred aluminum nitrate for practicing this invention is $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot m\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein m is from 0 to 12, and even more preferred aluminum nitrate is $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot m\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein m is from 7 to 11. Aluminum nitrate nonahydrate is most preferred.

20 The alum or aluminum sulfate referred to in this specification includes $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein n is generally from 14 to 18.

A sample refers to a portion of a composition, of any size. Thus, a composition has a sample that has a pH below 6.5 if any portion of the composition exhibits a pH below 6.5.

25 A controlled animal rearing facility refers to any facility in which animals are gathered, and in which live stock manure is collected and managed.

with the addition of manure to the litter, the addition of bedding or amendments between growouts, and efforts to clean the litter between growouts.

A manure slurry refers to a mixture of manure and a liquid, e.g., urine and/or water. Thus, a manure slurry is formed when animal manure and urine are contacted, or

5 when manure is mixed with water from an external source.

Aluminum chloride includes hydrated or anhydrous aluminum chloride when present as a solid. Aluminum chloride can be used in this invention in solid or liquid form, and thus discussions of aluminum chloride include both solid aluminum chloride and aluminum chloride solutions (in which aluminum chloride is present as a solution residue). Preferred aluminum chloride for practicing this invention is $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein n is from 0 to 10, and even more preferred aluminum chloride is $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein n is from 4 to 8. Aluminum chloride hexahydrate is most preferred.

Aluminum nitrate includes hydrated or anhydrous aluminum nitrate when present as a solid. Aluminum nitrate can be used in this invention in solid or liquid form, and

15 thus discussions of aluminum nitrate include both solid aluminum nitrate and aluminum nitrate solutions (in which aluminum nitrate is present as a solution residue). Preferred aluminum nitrate for practicing this invention is $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot m\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein m is from 0 to 12, and even more preferred aluminum nitrate is $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot m\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein m is from 7 to 11. Aluminum nitrate nonahydrate is most preferred.

20 The alum or aluminum sulfate referred to in this specification includes $\text{Al}_2[\text{SO}_4]_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, wherein n is generally from 14 to 18.

A sample refers to a portion of a composition, of any size. Thus, a composition has a sample that has a pH below 6.5 if any portion of the composition exhibits a pH below 6.5.

25 A controlled animal rearing facility refers to any facility in which animals are gathered, and in which live stock manure is collected and managed.